

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6600

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Received

AN ACT

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit the inclusion of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Medicare Identity
3 Theft Prevention Act of 2008”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF INCLUSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY**
5 **ACCOUNT NUMBERS ON MEDICARE CARDS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social
7 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)) is amended by add-
8 ing at the end the following new clause:

9 “(x) The Secretary of Health and Human Services,
10 in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security,
11 shall establish cost-effective procedures to ensure that a
12 social security account number (or any derivative thereof)
13 is not displayed, coded, or embedded on the Medicare card
14 issued to an individual who is entitled to benefits under
15 part A of title XVIII or enrolled under part B of title
16 XVIII and that any other identifier displayed on such card
17 is easily identifiable as not being the social security ac-
18 count number (or a derivative thereof).”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by
21 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to Medicare
22 cards issued on and after an effective date specified
23 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, but
24 in no case shall such effective date be later than the
25 date that is 24 months after the date adequate fund-
26 ing is provided pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

1 (2) REISSUANCE.—Subject to subsection (d)(2),
2 in the case of individuals who have been issued such
3 cards before such date, the Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services—

5 (A) shall provide for the reissuance for
6 such individuals of such a card that complies
7 with such amendment not later than 3 years
8 after the effective date specified under para-
9 graph (1); and

10 (B) may permit such individuals to apply
11 for the reissuance of such a card that complies
12 with such amendment before the date of
13 reissuance otherwise provided under subpara-
14 graph (A) in such exceptional circumstances as
15 the Secretary may specify.

16 (c) OUTREACH PROGRAM.—Subject to subsection
17 (d)(2), the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in
18 consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security,
19 shall conduct an outreach program to Medicare bene-
20 ficiaries and providers about the new Medicare card pro-
21 vided under this section.

22 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS AND LIMITATIONS ON EF-
23 FECTIVE DATE.—

24 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of

1 Health and Human Services, acting through the Ad-
2 ministrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
3 Services and in consultation with the Commissioner
4 of Social Security, shall submit to Congress a report
5 that includes detailed options regarding the imple-
6 mentation of this section, including line-item esti-
7 mates of and justifications for the costs associated
8 with such options and estimates of timeframes for
9 each stage of implementation. In recommending
10 such options, the Secretary shall take into consider-
11 ation, among other factors, cost-effectiveness and
12 beneficiary outreach and education.

13 (2) LIMITATION; MODIFICATION OF DEAD-
14 LINES.—With respect to the amendment made by
15 subsection (a), and the requirements of subsections
16 (b) and (c)—

17 (A) such amendment and requirements
18 shall not apply until adequate funding is appro-
19 priated pursuant to paragraph (3) to implement
20 the provisions of this section, as determined by
21 Congress; and

22 (B) any deadlines otherwise established
23 under this section for such amendment and re-
24 quirements are contingent upon the receipt of

adequate funding (as determined in subparagraph (A)) for such implementation.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any amounts made available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Program Management Account of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for administrative expenses and to the Commissioner of Social Security for administrative expenses, and subject to subparagraph (B), taking into consideration the report submitted under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, including section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a), for each of the five fiscal years beginning after the date of submittal of the report under paragraph (1).

(B) LIMITATION.—Such funds are not authorized to be appropriated until after receipt of the report provided under paragraph (1).

Passed the House of Representatives September 29,
2008.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.